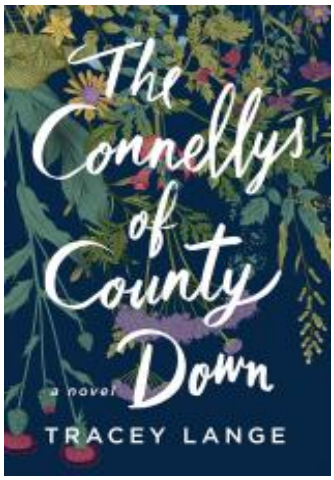
The Connellys of County Down

by Tracey Lange



About the Book

From Tracey Lange, the *New York Times* bestselling author of WE ARE THE BRENNANS, comes THE CONNELLYS OF COUNTY DOWN: a story about fierce family loyalty, good intentions gone awry, and the consequences of improbable love.

When Tara Connelly is released from prison after serving 18 months on a drug charge, she knows rebuilding her life at 30 years old won?t be easy. With no money and no prospects, she returns home to live with her siblings, who are both busy with their own problems. Her brother, a single dad, struggles with the ongoing effects of a brain injury he sustained years ago, and her sister?s fragile facade of calm and order is cracking under the burden of big secrets. Life becomes even more complicated when the cop who put her in prison keeps showing up unannounced, leaving Tara to wonder what he wants from her now.

While she works to build a new career and hold her family together, Tara finds a chance at love in a most unlikely place. But when the Connellys? secrets start to unravel and threaten her future, they all must face their worst fears and come clean, or risk losing each other forever.

THE CONNELLYS OF COUNTY DOWN is a moving novel about testing the bounds of love and loyalty. It explores the possibility of beginning our lives anew and reveals the pitfalls of shielding each other from the bitter truth.

Discussion Guide

1. Discuss the childhood tragedy of the Connellys and how that affected their relationship as siblings. What was surprising or different than you expected?

2. Tara keeps secrets to protect her siblings. Do you believe there are situations where keeping secrets from loved ones is

a good thing, or will keeping secrets always cause trouble eventually?

3. What were your opinions of Geraldine in the beginning of the novel, and how did your perception of her change throughout the story? Did you grow more sympathetic toward her as her character progressed through the story?

4. What factors do you think are holding Eddie back from living the life he wants?

5. Discuss the unlikely relationship between Tara and Brian. What endeared her to him and him to her? What were you thinking/hoping their relationship would end up becoming?

6. Imagination plays an important role in the story. How does Tara use her imagination to her advantage and to help those around her? How does the author use the tale of ?The Connellys of County Down? to better explain the Connellys? situation?

7. Tara?s art helped her find her way in prison, and it helped her again when she needed to find a new job. Do you have a creative hobby? How does it help you?

8. Were you surprised that the Connellys? father made an appearance? Were you satisfied with the role he played or with Tara?s interactions with him? Would you have acted the same if you were in her shoes?

9. If you?ve read the author?s previous book, WE ARE THE BRENNANS, discuss the similarities and differences between these two Irish-American families living in the Westchester, New York, area. (Did you spot the reference to WE ARE THE BRENNANS in this book?

10. The author leads us to suspect early on that Tara is hiding more than just Roland?s whereabouts from the police. Did you figure out her secret, or were you surprised when it was revealed?

11. Which character did you bond with the most? Why? What do you think will happen next for these characters?

12. Who would you cast in the film of THE CONNELLYS OF COUNTY DOWN?

Author Bio

Tracey Lange was born and raised in New York City. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in psychology before owning and operating a behavioral healthcare company with her husband for fifteen years. She completed the Stanford University online novel writing program, and is the author of WE ARE THE BRENNANS, THE CONNELLYS OF COUNTY DOWN and WHAT HAPPENED TO THE McCRAYS? She currently lives in Bend, Oregon with her husband, two sons and beloved German Shepherd.

The Connellys of County Down

by Tracey Lange

Publication Date: July 2, 2024
Genres: Fiction, Women's Fiction
Paperback: 288 pages
Publisher: Celadon Books
ISBN-10: 1250865387
ISBN-13: 9781250865380